

JOHN MUIR TURNER

John Muir Turner was born December 27, 1877, at Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, son of John and Agnes Montgomery Turner. He was the eighth child of 12 children. He received his education in a school-



house where the Heber First-Sixth Ward now stands. After a few years there he attended Central School, a building located where the present Central School now stands. He graduated from the eighth grade and was considered a well-educated young man.

As a young fellow he helped his father with farming and the cattle business. In the summer his father had a sawmill, and young John would work there also. Later on, his folks built a store and a theater and he helped by carrying the load for the entire job.

As a boy he liked baseball and became a fairly good player. He later worked on the Ontario Drain Tunnel, where the Park Utah mine at Keetley now is.

In 1903, when the telephone exchange was built at Heber, he found a job constructing the lines. That same year he went to St. Louis, Missouri, to work, staying there until the fall of 1904. He went to the World's Fair several times and had the pleasure of showing friends and relatives from Heber around the fair.

When he arrived home from St. Louis he stayed but a short time. There was a gold rush at Goldfield, Nevada, and there was much excitement. So, with Joe Averett and Louis Jaspersen, they rigged up a sheep wagon and a team of horses and set out to seek their fortunes. This trek required 23 days before Goldfield was reached.

While working there, his father died. However, he never received word of his death until about sixty days later, because he was out prospecting for gold. As soon as he was notified he made preparations to return home.

After his return home from Nevada he

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farmed, helping to operate the theater, raised cattle, and worked in the sawmill. This work he continued until about 1915. Then he and his brother James went to Idaho, to the Raft River Valley. There he met his future wife, Anna Willmore. They were married in Logan, Utah, on December 29, 1916. This marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. To this couple were born three sons and two daughters.

After several years working at various jobs, he finally secured employment with the Bonneville Lumber Company in Heber. Later he became manager of this business when the former manager moved away. He worked there 12 years, and then they sold out to another concern. He continued with the new concern about 18 months.

During the depression years of the 1930s he started his own lumber yard business. This new venture was called the Turner Building Supply. The original store opened for business April 1, 1934, and the location was the old Joseph Hatch coal yard down by the railroad track. On July 1, 1942, the present store on Main Street was ready for business. Vernal, in addition to the one in Heber. These businesses are operated by his three sons.

He was active in his Church. He took great pride in being on the building committee of the First Ward chapel when it was remodeled and enlarged. Ground for this project was broken on April 15, 1952, and the building dedicated on March 11, 1953.

He was a charter member of the Heber Lions Club and one of the oldest key members in the international organization.

Over the years, John acquired many friends, both young and old. He lived a full, active life practically to the very end.

On March 20, 1954, John Muir Turner died in a Salt Lake City hospital following a two-month illness. His funeral services were held in the First Ward chapel on March 22, and he was buried in the cemetery at Heber.



The Adeline Chorus, a popular singing group of Wasatch County. Pictured, left to right, are Jennie Duke, Manilla Paterson, Marvel Murdock, Louie Averett, Hazel Hardy, Anna Turner, Ethel Watson, Bertha Murdock, Emma Smith, Venice Watson, Annie Rashand, Maybell Moulton and Florence Hicken.

John Muir Turner's wife

son, Marvel Murdock, Donna Montgomery, Louie Averett, Hazel Hardy, Phyllis Van Wagoner, Anna Turner, Ethel Watson, Bertha Murdock, Emma Smith, Venice Watson, Annie Rashand, Maybell Moulton, Florence Hicken, Vida Filmore, Ruby Stringham, Hope Olson, Amy Bond, Florence Anderson, Cleo Hiatt, Reiva Price, Elsie Kohler, Grace Simmons, Pearl Edwards, Donna Carlson, Blanch Anderson and Norma Broadbent.

Another ladies chorus that has performed at many church and civic functions is the "Choralettes," organized in 1957 by Mrs. Virginia Green. The group began with 15 members and by 1961 had grown to 45 singers. Mrs. Green has continued as director with Yvonne Miller, Diana Witt and Carole Harnden as accompanists and Thelma Wootton, narrator. Officers have been elected each year and have included Marvan Ryan, Clara Gardner and Ruth McGuire, presidents; Nelda Lee, Beva Welch and Merle Davis, vice presidents; Cleo Hiatt, Brenita Averett and Geneal Cutler, secretary-treasurers.

The group presents an annual concert each Spring and has been presenting proceeds of the concerts to Wasatch Stake for a new Stake Tabernacle. A yearly Christmas program is also presented in wards, schools and to private groups.

Still another musical activity in Heber has been a traditional Martial Band. Early settlers in the valley organized a fife and drum corps and